NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

MAY 6, 2003

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Mark Trail Award Winners Announced: NWS Headquarters recently announced the 2003 NOAA Weather Radio Mark Trail Awards and NWS Western Region is pleased to honor the following recipients. Nominated by our WR Warning Coordination Meteorologists, the recipients will receive their awards on June 17 during a ceremony at the Cannon House Office Building in Washington, D.C.

Washington State Division of Emergency Management (WSDEM). In the past eighteen months, the WSDEM has been instrumental in the installation or upgrade of three transmitters in eastern Washington. Through the leadership of Don Miller, WSDEM also 1) designed , acquired, and installed the hazards warning system for the Umtilla Army Depot CSEPP program, as well as the Hanford Nuclear Site, that integrates their warning system into several NWR regional transmitters operated out of NWS Pendleton; 2) briefed Secretary Ridge on Seattle NWR/EAS All-Hazards warning system as a prototype for America; and 3) supported NOAA NWS in NWR expansion to more than 90 percent of Washington state's population. (Nominated by Dennis Hull, WCM, Pendleton)

Ken Fagnant & Dennis Godfrey. Through their joint efforts, Ken Fagnant and Dennis Godfrey have obtained a new transmitter that expands NWR coverage in southeastern Idaho. In addition, their efforts have resulted in placing NWR receivers in schools, school administrative facilities, city and county offices, libraries, and road and bridge facilities. Through civic groups, they have secured funding for NWR receivers for hospitals and elder care facilities. Furthermore, they continue to provide invaluable articles to inform the public about the potential benefits of NWR receivers for severe weather and other emergency situations. (Nominated by Vernon Preston, WCM, Pocatello)

Steve Johnson of Steve Johnson and Associates, Fresno, CA. Steve Johnson is an ardent NOAA Weather Radio supporter. He is recognized for his donation of 100 or more programmable NOAA Weather Radio receivers to area Office of Emergency Services and primary and secondary health care facilities. Mr. Johnson's personal generosity is a major step in keeping the county health facilities informed of potential severe weather in the San Joaquin Valley. (Nominated by Dan Gudgel, WCM, San Joaquin Valley)

Norman Parrent. Norman Parrent is being recognized for his commitment to help provide NOAA Weather Radio transmitter expansion into eastern Montana. As a

volunteer, Parrent was crucial in getting commitments from four sets of County Commissioners, the Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, an electric cooperative, four county emergency managers, and two NOAA National Weather Service offices to keep the project moving. Norm Parrent assisted in every aspect of the project and made NOAA Weather Radio transmitter expansion a reality. (Nominated by James Scarlett, WCM, Billings)

DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Washington Communities Achieve StormReady Status: The National Weather Service designated two Washington state locations as StormReady communities this week. In special ceremony on May 5, the NWS Staff from Spokane recognized Whitman County and the cities of Pullman and Colfax for their efforts to enhance their hazardous weather operations. More than 40,000 people live in Whitman County. On May 6, Whatcom County was recognized for their StormReady status. Staff from NWS Forecast Office in Seattle say the county's proximity to the Cascade Mountains and the Strait of Georgia promotes nearly every kind of weather possible, from bone-chilling Fraser Canyon "nor-easters" to heavy Cascade snowfall, to river and coastal flooding, and even wildfires and tornados. More than 160,000 people live in Whatcom County. Nationwide there are more than 556 StormReady and seven TsunamiReady communities in 43 states.

Whatcom County is recognized as StormReady. (l to r) WFO Seattle WCM Ted Buehner, County Executive Pete Kremen, County Sheriff Bill Elfo, Emergency Management Volunteer Bob Jacobson, and Deputy Emergency Management Director Neil Clement.

Electronic Technician Andy Miller gives a tour at WFO Pendleton.

Take Your Kids to Work: Several Western Region offices participated in the "Bring Your Kids To Work" day on April 24. The future weather forecasters were shown how the NWS prepares its products and participated in hands-on experiments.

WFO Pendleton. "A New Generation at Work" was the title for WFO Pendleton's Take your Daughters and Sons to Work day. The morning opened with a Conversation Cafe. The activity was an open discussion with the children about various jobs and what they want to do when they grow up. WCM Dennis Hull discussed how the forecast office operates and how weather affects our lives. His discussion also included information about tornados and how they form, with a mini tornado simulation demonstration. Hull and

Electronic Technician/Diversity Team member Andy Miller gave a tour of the facility, including forecast operations and the Doppler Weather Radar. The children worked with Forecasters Jeremy Wolf and Bryan Henry and SOO Jon Mittelstadt on gathering information and making forecasts. Each child was given a packet of weather information and games and were presented with a framed picture of themselves as an Honorary Forecaster. Five Children ranging from 6 to 13 years old participated in the event. Organizers of the event were WCM Dennis Hull, ASA/Diversity Focal Point Diana Locke and Service Hydrologist Marilyn Lohmann.

WFO Seattle. At WFO Seattle, 46 children, ages 7-17, participated in a full day of activities, starting with shadowing their parent. One of the day's activities included the kids taking turns predicting the weather for the following weekend. Their predictions and actual NWS weekend data was posted on the WASC internal web page.

WFO Great Falls. WFO Great Falls also celebrated "Bring Your Child to Work" Day. In addition to touring the radome, inflation shelter, local instrument sites, and office operations, the kids participated in several interesting meteorology and hydrology experiments. Gina Loss (SSH and Diversity Focal Point) organized the event and devised the experiments. Dave Bernhardt (SOO), Wanda Hale (ASA), Doug Sherrick (ESA), Rick Dittmann (WCM), and Don Britton (IT) all assisted with the tours and experiments.

OUTREACH

Lilac Bloomsday Run: On May 4, five NOAA/NWS employees participated in the Corporate Cup division of the 27th Lilac Bloomsday Run in Spokane, Washington. WFO Spokane Service Hydrologist Charles Ross organized the NWS team, called "Jet Streamers", which included Lead Forecaster Matt Fugazzi, Forecaster Paul Bos, Hydro Met Tech Stan Savoy, and WFO Key West Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jon Rizzo. These five joined 40,000+ other runners in this annual event billed as the largest individually timed road race in the world. Corporate Cup teams are made up of five or more representatives from any company or organization, and they compete against each other for bragging rights as the "fastest corporation in town".

NWS "Jet Streamers" Team: (l to r)
WFO Spokane Forecaster Paul Bos, WFO Key West WCM Jon Rizzo, WFO Spokane HMT Stan Savoy, WFO Spokane SH Charles Ross, WFO Spokane Lead Forecaster Matt Fugazzi

New Weather Kiosk at Humboldt Bay: WFO Eureka is helping its maritime community with a new Humboldt Bay Marine Weather Kiosk. The kiosk is located in the lobby of the Woodley Island Marina offices. The cabinet was donated by Humboldt County, the computer is from the National Weather Service, the internet connection is

through Woodley Island Marina, and the monitor was purchased with a grant from the National Safe Boating Council. The internet web site (http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Eureka/kiosk) powers the kiosk and provides easy-access to data from local weather forecasts to a variety of other key data used by recreational and commercial fisherman before embarking on their journey.

(l to r) Paul Flatt, NWS WCM; Bob Anthony, NBC Channel 7; John Jannuzzi, NWS MIC; Scott Dorval, ABC Channel 6; Mary Brusse, Ada County Disaster Services; Deborah Smith, NBC Channel 7; Jim Duthie, ABC Channel 6; and Jay Breidenbach, NWS Service Hydrologist.

Idaho Severe Weather Awareness Week - May 5-9: It's Severe Weather Awareness Week in Idaho. Citizens across the state are being educated as to how they can protect themselves and their property from spring and summer weather hazards.

WFO Boise kicked off the week by hosting a Media Workshop. Several local broadcasters from the Boise Metro gathered together to discuss new forecast techniques, the impact of El Nino on Idaho weather, and the climate outlook for the upcoming season.

Daily themes have been developed for the week, including watches and warnings; NOAA Weather Radio/All Hazards information; flood and flash flood safety; tornadoes and tornado safety; wind, hail, and lightning; and wildfire awareness for safety messages.

Southeast Asian Education Conference: On April 26, staff from WFO San Joaquin Valley represented the NWS at the First Annual Southeast Asian Educational Conference in Fresno. DAPM Martin Veloz (Western Region's Hispanic Special Emphasis Program Manager), ASA Daisy Noceda (WR Asian-American/Pacific Islander SEPM), and Met Intern Mike Sowko staffed a career booth. Over 5000 attendees were at the event, which was held at Roosevelt High School.

Oregon Emergency Management Conference: More than 100 city and county emergency managers from Oregon attended the Oregon Emergency Management Conference in Hood River on May 5-7, 2003. National Weather Service staff from Portland presented three seminars during the conference and also staffed an exhibit that featured NWS products and services as well as emphasized the NWS Storm Ready program. NWS presentations included a historical review of major wind storms in the Pacific Northwest with a special focus on Oregon as well as the latest information on the

NWS prototype digital forecasts available from the state's three forecast offices. Another important topic was a review and technical update of the NWS hydrologic services available to other agencies.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

STATEMENT OF THE WEEK: This week's statement of the week is a special weather statement (SPS) written by lead forecaster Art Horton of WFO San Diego. Art's statement provided a good overview of the amount of rainfall anticipated from a pacific storm system expected to move over the area during the next 24 hours. Good job Art!

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SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SAN DIEGO CA
230 PM PDT FRI MAY 2 2003

...A PACIFIC STORM WILL AFFECT EXTREME SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA LATE TONIGHT THROUGH SATURDAY...

A PACIFIC STORM WILL MOVE INTO EXTREME SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA LATE TONIGHT INTO SATURDAY. RAIN SHOULD BEGIN OVER ORANGE COUNTY BY MIDNIGHT AND SPREAD SOUTH AND EAST DURING THE NIGHT REACHING INTO SOUTHERN SAN DIEGO COUNTY BEFORE SUNRISE. RAIN SHOULD BE TAPERING OFF DURING THE AFTERNOON ON SATURDAY THOUGH A FEW LINGERING SHOWERS WILL CONTINUE INTO SATURDAY NIGHT.

RAINFALL AMOUNTS SHOULD RANGE BETWEEN A QUARTER OF AN INCH OR LESS ACROSS SOUTHERN SAN DIEGO COUNTY TO NEARLY THREE QUARTERS OF AN INCH ACROSS ORANGE COUNTY AND THE INLAND EMPIRE. HIGHER AMOUNTS ARE EXPECTED IN THE MOUNTAINS WITH AS MUCH AS AN INCH AND A HALF OVER THE SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS AND BETWEEN A HALF AND THREE QUARTERS OF AN INCH ACROSS THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY MOUNTAINS. THE SNOW LEVEL WILL REMAIN ABOVE 7000 FEET THROUGH SATURDAY NIGHT.

THE STORM IS EXPECTED TO MOVE OUT OF THE AREA ON SUNDAY WITH CLEARING SKIES AS HIGH PRESSURE BEGINS TO BUILD OVER THE WEST COAST.

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HORTON

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION

Gila Basin Tour: On April 21-25, Bill Reed (Senior Hydrologist and Lower Colorado River Focal Point, CBRFC), Mike Schaffner (Hydrologist Intern, WFO Tucson), Tom

Zickus (Senior Service Hydrologist, WFO Phoenix), Ed Polasko (Senior Service Hydrologist, WFO Albuquerque), and Tim Brice (Hydro Focal Point, WFO El Paso) participated in a tour of the Gila River Basin. The tour began in the headwaters for the San Francisco and Gila Rivers in New Mexico and worked its way downstream well into central Arizona. A dozen stream gages, two dams, and various communities were visited. This was an opportunity for WFO and RFC participants from different regions to work together, share experiences in the field, and discuss coordination and hydrologic issues.

COMET grant for hydrology project: The University of Arizona (UA) Department of Hydrology and Water Resources has been awarded a COMET COOP grant for the project entitled "Development of Site Specific Flash Flood Model for the Western Region." The project's aim is to development a real time site specific hydrologic model, using DHR data, to predict flash floods. Participants include various professors from UA and UCLA, WFO Tucson (principal contributor Mike Schaffner, Hydrologist Intern), CBRFC, NWS Hydrology Lab, USDA Agricultural Research Services, and WFO test sites Boise, Portland, and Oxnard.

Dam break exercise: On April 29, Mike Schaffner (WFO Tucson Hydro Intern) and Tom Evans (WFO Tucson WCM) in coordination with Tom Zickus (WFO Phoenix SSH), David Runyan (WFO Phoenix WCM), and Bill Reed (CBRFC Hydrologist) prepared and participated in a dam break exercise sponsored by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the San Carlos Fort Apache Indian Tribe. This exercise was the first tabletop dam break exercise to take place on the reservation in San Carlos, AZ. It involved several local and federal agencies as well as the Indian tribal agencies. The exercise was a success. All parties involved learned a lot from it, and improved their dam break procedures. The BIA and San Carlos Fort Apache Tribe asked the NWS to participate in future dam break exercises on the reservation which are panned for next year.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

WES Technical Attachments: Each SOO provided a short 1-3 page write up on the meteorological aspects on one of the two required spring WES office training drills. The purpose was to share good case study ideas among the WR SOOs. The TA's can be found at: http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrhq/TALITE03.html

Western Region Webmaster's Resource List: WR/SSD developed an web resource site to support the WR Webmasters. The web site contains a number of links to useful software and web applications that other web masters have found useful. The page can be found at: http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/basic.html.

Arizona Summer Workshop: The Summer Workshop will be held June 25-26 in Phoenix Arizona. The workshop will be hosted by WFO Phoenix and SRP (Salt River Project). The workshop will focus on convective storm forecasting, flash flood forecasting, the upcoming NAME project, IFPS/GFE (grid editing techniques, best practices), warning decision making, drought status and its hydrological implications.

Seventh Annual Great Divide Workshop: The Seventh Annual Great Divide Workshop will be held August 26-28, 2003, Glasgow, Montana. The Great Divide

Workshop provides a forum for participants to share information involving new tools and techniques for providing weather forecasts for the Inter-mountain West and Western High Plains, across the U.S. and Canada. All attendees should register at http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Glasgow/divide.shtml or contact Thomas.Salem@noaa.gov.

An Interactive Web Page for Enhancing Weather Event Simulations: Here's a superb piece of work by Don Moore, Billings SOO, that you may want to consider when doing your WES Simulations.

Forecasters working a weather event answer phone calls, receive spotter reports, provide spot forecasts, and have to take additional actions such as NAWAS for warnings. To incorporate these types of challenges into a weather event simulation, a web page was designed that allows the user to handle operational requests and take actions that would normally be taken in a real event. In addition, the user can issue products via this web page which are written to a file for later viewing. By incorporating this web page into a weather event simulation, quieter moments in the simulation can be filled and the stress level can be raised to a more typical level of an operational environment. Operational procedures can also be put to the test. The web page can be easily configured for any simulation and be used at varying degrees of complexity.

To see this page in action, go to
www.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/Billings/simulations/set_simulation_time.pl

Upon entering the web page, enter test as your name, set the simulation clock to 07/01/2002 15:00 and let it run for 5 minutes. The web page will automatically update every 60 seconds, which will pop up new spotter reports and requested tasks. For obvious reasons, this version of the web page will not write to WR server. If you have any questions regarding this web page or are interested in setting it up for a simulation, contact Don Moore the SOO in Billings, Montana.

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

AWIPS Status: Twenty-six of twenty-eight (WFOs, RFCs, WRH) Western Region sites have installed the new AWIPS Pre-processors (PXs). Twenty-two sites have installed Operational Build 1 (OB1). Maintenance Release OB1.1 has been released to the field for installation following OB1. Maintenance Release OB1.2, which has 13 patches (5 of which are critical DRs) should be released to the field the last week in May.

Lightening Strike Damages WSR-88 D Radome: The WFO Salt Lake City WSR-88D (KMTX) RADAR sustained a severe lightning strike that damaged the WSR-88D radome on April 2, 2003. The lightning strike damaged 16 panels on the radome resulting in large holes, burns and loss of structural integrity. The WFO Salt Lake City maintenance staff in coordination with the ROC and the ESSCO radome team replaced 16 panels in four days and identified 6 more panels to be replaced this summer. The WFO Salt Lake City maintenance staff did a great job in responding to this repair.